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BED CUSHION SUPPORT

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No. OF CLAIMS 3

BED CUSHION SUPPORTBACKGROUND OF THE INVENTIONFIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to cushion or support means employed to provide comfort to a human body while sitting up on a bed. In particular the invention herein contemplates the provision of a preformed structure adopted to surround and support the upper torso of a human body while the buttox and legs of the body are supported on a mattress.

When a person has his legs outstretched on a mattress of reasonable softness a considerable strain is placed upon his back when the upper portion of his torso, namely the head and shoulders, are raised into a semi-reclining position.

A reclining body can be made reasonably comfortable in the above mentioned position provided an attendant or the body itself shoves enough pillows and cushions under, around and about the upper torso until the neck, shoulders and lower back are sufficiently supported to bear their own weight. Usually an invalid cannot help himself sufficiently to adjust the pillows or may not, as in stroke patients, be able to instruct a nurse or orderly where to effect an adjustment to his pillows to alleviate pain caused by an unsupported part of his torso, head or neck, being under strain.

OBJECT OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention therefore to provide a back supporting structure for use on a mattress and at the head of a bed, which has preformed within it supporting means to interfit into the small of the back, the shoulder blades, and the neck of the user to maintain pressure thereon and thereby give support for the whole torso of the user in comfort.

It is known that many people read or watch television while sitting up in bed with their legs outstretched and with their backs resting on the headboard. It is also known that beds are designed for lying flat. It is therefore a further object of the present invention to provide a structure that can



be easily fitted against the headboard of a bed to allow a person to recline thereagainst, while in bed, and be comfortably supported to hold his head up to read or watch television therefrom.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The bed cushion support for the upper torso of the human body provided herein comprises a block of elastomeric material having a perpendicular rearward side to interfit against the headboard of a bed and having a bottom side substantially horizontal for resting upon a mattress. The support has a generally rearwardly and upwardly inclined front upper side with lateral sides tapering upwardly. The front upper side comes into contact with the back, head, neck and shoulders of the user and therefore is formed with varying surface configurations to provide the correct support characteristics to the whole of the structure. By being integrally formed one with another the support means or surfaces built into the block of elastomeric material will not shift or be otherwise displaced one with another during use and will thereby provide a continuously usable cushion support that maintains its shape irrespective of the movement of the body of a user upon it.

The lower portion of the upper front side has outwardly and upwardly concave flanks for supporting the back of the torso. The flanks rise upwardly with increasing concavity as they taper upwardly and outwardly to meet the lateral sides to provide substantially increasing support for the shoulders of the torso. The block gives the appearance of being two parts, a lower part having the upwardly rising concave flanks as described and an upper part which appears to overlie with a curving brow, the rising lower part of the block. The brow curves from the perpendicular back across the highest point in the block gently to join with a sharp reverse curve or cavity into the lower part. The brow is intended to hold the head of the user at the base of his skull where his head and neck meet thereby to provide maximum support to both.

An embodiment of the invention with the foregoing objects in view, and such other purposes, advantages or features as may be apparent from the disclosure herein is hereinafter described by way of specific example wherein reference is made to the accompanying drawings.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Figure one is a perspective view of the invention herein.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENT

In the drawing numeral 10 designates generally the invention herein formed as shown from a block of elastomeric material such as foam. The support block or cushion 10 could also be made from two blocks of material, 12 and 14, joined together at 15.

The back or rearward side 16 of the block is cut perpendicularly to fit against a perpendicular headboard or a wall surface. The bottom 17 is horizontal and flat to rest against the upper surface of a bed mattress. The lateral sides 18 and 19 of the support block taper inwardly and upwardly to merge into a rounded upper side 20 which runs convexly from the back 16 to a brow 22 on said upper part 12.

From brow 22 the upper part 12 is formed with increasing concavity 24 until it merges sharply at the joint 15 with the lower block 14. The concavity 24 forms a trough-like depression into the block with two equally sized mounds or bumps 25, 26, rising either side thereof. The mounds 25, 26 support either side of a users head when the base of his skull is positioned against the trough at 24 and the upper part of his back snugly resting in the depth of the joint 27 where the upper side of a concave depression 28 formed in lower block 14, meets and merges with trough 24.

The back support cushion of the invention 10, has a generally rearwardly and upwardly inclining front side 30 formed from the browed and outwardly mounded upper part 12 as described above, and lower part 14. The lower portion 14 has a base plane 31 of greater horizontal area than the base plane of the upper part. The lower part 14 provides a surface plane 32 for supporting the back and shoulders of a user's torso and inclines upwardly from a front edge 34 gently concavely rearward forming thereby concave flanks 36, 37 on either side of a central depression 28.

The lateral sides 18, 19 and the surface plane 32

converge generally toward an apical point 40 on the upper side of the browed portion to coincide with a point along side 20 aforesaid. The apical point 40 and edge 20 constitute the highest point in the support to catch the upper portion of the back of the head of the user.

The flanks 36 and 37 provide shoulder supporting surfaces to the body of a user.

The midpart 42 of the front edge 34 is forwardly convex and the convex configuration is carried upwardly and rearwardly of the mid lower part of the front surface 32 as shown by rise 44 in the drawing. This rise 44 is provided to firmly press into the small of the back which will be found to be arched and under strain when a person sits with legs outstretched on a mattress with his torso reclining backwards.

It is found that a small variety of differently dimensioned supports according to the invention can be fashioned to suit a variety of different shaped torsos. The support cushion as shown depicted provides the preferred dimensional relation of one element of the support with another.

It will be appreciated that whereas a preferred embodiment of the invention has been described in detail, it will be apparent to one skilled in the art that variations and modifications could be made to the invention without departing from the scope of the following claims.

THE EMBODIMENTS OF THE INVENTION IN WHICH AN
EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OR PRIVILEGE IS
CLAIMED ARE DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

1. A bed-cushion comprising in combination a body having a generally rearwardly and upwardly inclining front side and a pair of opposite generally upwardly and inwardly tapering lateral sides, said body including a lower part and an upper part integral with and surmounting said lower part, the base plane of said lower part occupying a greater horizontal area than that of said upper part, said lower part presenting a lower back-supporting surface which inclines upwardly and rearwardly, and upwardly outwardly convex lower flanking surfaces constituting part of said lateral sides at right angles to said back supporting surface, said back-supporting surface and said flanking surface converging toward the horizontal apical plane of said lower part said upper part lying on said apical plane and presenting an upwardly and outwardly convex upper back-supporting surface predominantly inclining upwardly and rearwardly, the convexity of said upper back-supporting surface forming an overlying brow above said lower back-supporting surface, upwardly outwardly convex upper flanking surfaces at right angles to said upper back-supporting surface also constituting part of said lateral sides, said upper flanking surfaces converging toward the apex of said cushion and tapering so as to merge into said upper front surface.
2. The invention according to Claim 1 in which at least the midpart of the front edge of said lower front surface is forwardly convex.
3. The invention according to Claim 2 which includes an outwardly rounded portion occupying the lower part of said lower back-supporting surface, and bounded by said front edge.

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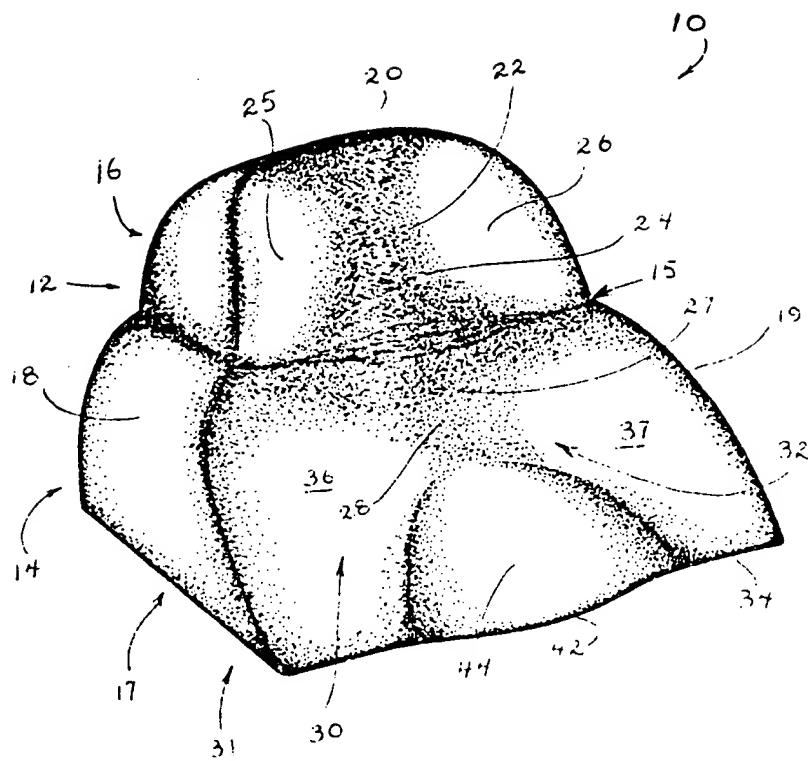


FIG. 1

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P33

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Bed cushion support body - has rearwardly and upwardly inclining front side for back support, body having approximate pyramid shape

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The bed cushion comprises a body having a rearwardly and upwardly inclining front side and a pair of opposite upwardly inclining front side and a pair of opposite upwardly and inwardly tapering lateral sides. The body including a lower part and an upper part integral with a surmounting the lower part. The base plane of the lower part occupying a greater horizontal area than that of the upper part.

The lower part presents a lower back-supporting surface which inclines upwardly and rearwardly and upwardly outwardly convex lower flanking surfaces constitutes part of the lateral sides at right angles to the back supporting surface, the back supporting surface and the flanking surface converges toward the horizontal apical plane of the lower part the upper part lying on the apical plane and presenting an upwardly and outwardly convex back-supporting surface predominantly inclining upwardly and rearwardly. 4.3.75 as 221444(7pp994)

